

Message Text

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44

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 SP-02 OES-03 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01

NRC-05 ERDE-00 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 INT-05 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8949

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3764

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, NI

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE - BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON UN REMOTE
SENSING NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 86576

1. WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED VISIT BY DEPARTMENT/NASA
DELEGATION TO LAGOS IN CONNECTION WITH REMOTE SENSING ISSUE
(REFTEL), WISH SOUND CAUTIONARY NOTE THAT APPROACH TO FMG
ON ITS HOME GROUND HAS IN PAST PROVEN COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN
CASES WHERE NIGERIAN DELEGATION AT CONFERENCE CONCERNED SHOWS
SIGNS OF HELPFUL FLEXIBILITY.

2. AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, RAISING
ISSUE OF PRG REPRESENTATION IN LAGOS RESULTED IN ADVERSE
FMG DECISION, CUTTING GROUND OUT FROM UNDER DELEGATION
MEMBERS WHO WERE OTHERWISE PREPARED TO SEEK ACCOMMODATION
WITH OUR VIEWS (LAGOS 1365). TO EXTENT DELEGATES IN OUTER
SPACE COMMITTEE APPEAR FLEXIBLE, THIS IS DOUBTLESS RESULT
OF FACT THEY ARE WITHOUT RIGID INSTRUCTIONS AND ARE THUS
FREE TO WORK OUT POSITIONS WHICH SEEM BEST TO THEM. IF QUESTION
OF RIGHT TO SENSE AND TO DISSEMINATE RESULTS OF SENSING IS PUT
FORMALLY TO HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS FMG, IT MIGHT WELL BE LED TO
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ADOPT STANCE CONTRARY TO OUR INTERESTS AND THEREBY CURTAIL

FREEDOM OF NIGERIAN DELEGATES TO MAKE HELPFUL DEAL IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

3. SHOULD DEPARTMENT AND NASA WISH PROCEED WITH VISIT DESPITE THIS CAVEAT, BELIEVE DELEGATION SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO ONE OR TWO MEMBERS WHO CAN EMPHASIZE TECHNICAL BENEFITS OF SENSING AND ONLY SECONDARILY SET FORTH USG VIEWS ON DESIRABILITY OF UNRESTRICTED RIGHT TO SENSE AND OPEN DISSEMINATION OF DATA. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY WOULD EXPECT BE ABLE TO ARRANGE WORTHWHILE SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND OTHER MINISTRIES MORE DIRECTLY INTERESTED IN USE OF REMOTE SENSING. LATTER WOULD INCLUDE FEDERAL SURVEYS DEPARTMENT IN MINISTRY WORKS AND HOUSING, NIGERIAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND MINISTRY MINES AND POWER, ALL OF WHOM HAVE PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED USING REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY.

4. PLEASE PROVIDE MAXIMUM LEAD TIME IF DECISION TAKEN TO GO AHEAD WITH VISIT AS ALL APPOINTMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE COORDINATED THROUGH MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
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